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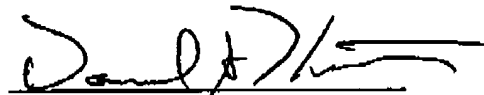
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

St. Louis, Missouri
May 13, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted to the
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In re application of:
Rice et al.

Serial No.: 09/576,989

Filed: 05/23/2000

For: HCV Variants

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Examiner: Wortman, Donna C.

Group Art Unit 1648

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions the Patent Office for a 1 month extension of time to and
including May 13, 2003, to respond to the Official Action in the above-identified application. Late

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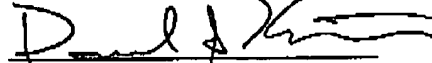
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entity status is asserted. Please charge the large entity fee of \$110.00 to Deposit Account 20-0823. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for that purpose.

It is believed that the fee is correct, but the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to deposit Account 20-0823.

Respectfully submitted,



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May 13, 2003